(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered by the Government;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) if not, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for construction of godowns for PDS under Revamped Public Distribution System areas was considered in the Standing Finance Committee in its meeting held on 11th October, 1996.

(c) The Committee has approved financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Pradesh to the tune of Rs. 124.20 lakhs for construction of 16 godowns with a capacity of 5000 MTs. Sanction for release of funds have already been issued vide letter No. 21/43/95-PD. I dated 24th October, 1996.

(d) Does not arise.

Sales of Super Bazar

646. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the annual sales of the Super Bazar during each of the last three years including 1996, so far;

(b) the year upto which the accounts of the Super Bazar have been audited;

(c) the details of the shortcomings/irregularities noticed in their accounts by the auditors; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar, their annual sales during the last three years are as follows :

1993-94	Rs. 115.20 crores
1994-95	Rs. 130.15 crores
1995-96	Rs. 136.54 crores
1996-97	Rs. 63.00 crores (upto April-Sept., 96)

(b) Accounts of Super Bazar have been audited upto 1995-96.

(c) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar, major shortcomings/irregularities pointed out by their auditors are as follows :

(i) Stock shortage

(ii) Suggestion about item-wise control instead of value control of stock. (iii) old ouTstanding dues in Sundry Debtors. (iv) not getting approval about the credit limit from Registrar. (v) maintenance of records in repect of fixed assets. (vi) disowning of liabilities of Rs. 11.78 lakhs by the concerned party from the Patel Nagar branch against purchase of goods.

(vii) Bank reconciliation.

(d) Management of Super Bazar has reported that appropriate action has been taken in respect of all the items.

[Translation]

Rice Growing Areas in Gujarat

647. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of rice producing areas in Gujarat particularly in the tribal and backward areas of the State;

(b) whether any Rice Research Centre has been set up or proposed to be set up by the Government in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Rice producing areas in Gujarat are covered in the districts of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Valsad, Dangs, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Mehsana, Panch Mahals, Sabarkantha, Surat, Junagadh and Surendranagar, out of which Punchmahals, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Bharuch and Sabarkantha are particularly in tribal and backward areas of the state.

(b) and (c). There is one rice research centre located at Nawagaon under Gujarat Agricultural University. The Centre has an annual plan budget of Rs. 7 lakh for 96-97 and VIIIth plan budget of Rs. 28.76 lakh.

[English]

Investigation for Gold Plating Urea Plants

648. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Urea plants under investigation for gold planting" appearing in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 14th October, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the final decision taken by the Government on the incorporation of a cap on the payments to gas-based fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of assessment of the installed capacity of urea plants was under the consideration of the Government for quite some time. A Technical Committee has been appointed for undertaking an indepth examination of the issue.

(c) No such decision has been taken.

Interim Relief to Bhopal Gas Victims

649. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duration of monthly Interim Relief of Rs. 200/- being paid to the Bhopal Gas Victims has been extended:

(b) if so, the date of extension:

(c) whether the duration for providing Interim Relief to one lakh additional persons would also be increased in the similar manner as has been done earlier for the five lakh persons in respect of whom the decision to provide Interim Relief w.e.f. March 1, 1992 has already been taken; and

(d) if so, the last date for providing Interim Relief to such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, the date has been extended upto May, 1997 and this benefit has also been extended to additional one lakh persons.

Harassment to Tribals

650. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is compulsory to submit the Caste-certificate of the parents or grand-parents alongwith their certificate by the tribals:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether Halba tribals in Maharashtra are being harassed by the Authorities to submit the caste certificate of their parents and grand-parents along with their certificate; and

(d) if so the steps being taken to remove such compulsions?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Central Government guidelines to the State Governments and UT Administrations stipulate that the competent authorities should undertake proper verification before issuing Scheduled Tribe certificates including, inter-alia, with regard to whether the applicant and his/her parents actually belong to the community claimed, so as to ensure that only genuine persons are issued such certificates.

(c) and (d). The Government of Maharashtra have reported having clarified to the concerned authorities that Scheduled Tribe certificates can be issued to applicants claiming to belong to the Halba community if they submit their father's certificate and any other documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the competent authorities. The clarifications dated 2.7.1996 and 31.7.1996 were issued following a complaint that Scheduled Tribe certificates were not being issued to such applicants unless certificates of their parents as well as grand-parents were produced.

IPCL Projects

651. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Petrochemicals Limited has any plan to make new investment in its projects:

(b) if so, the details of the projects in which IPCL has made investment in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the proposal mooted by IPCL to set up new projects and to expand its existing units in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) has plans to invest in the approved new and expansion Projects totalling Rs. 4233 crores approximately during 8th Plan period. Out of this approved amount, about Rs. 2583 crores is likely to be spent during 8th Five Year Plan period and an amount of Rs. 1651 crores will be spent during the 9th Five Year Plan period as spill-over from the 8th Plan. The details of the projects in which IPCL made investment in 8th Five Year Plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

Other new proposals of IPCL for implementation during 9th Five Year Plan period are in the formulation stage.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of Projects	Estimated cost approved
1	2	3
1.	**Gandhar Complex**	
	Cas Cracker to produce 3 lakhs TPA of Ethyene with down stream products such as HDPE, MEG, EO, VCM, PVC and Chlor Alkali.	3485